

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE- 21 FEBRUARY 2005**

**REPORT ON: CLOSURE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSERY EDUCATION SERVICES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 125- 2005**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This Report seeks approval to close nursery provision at Cotton Road Nursery School and Sidlaw View Nursery Class from 31 June 2005 and Mossgiel Nursery Class from 30 June 2006

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee notes and approves the contents of this report and agrees:

- i. to close Cotton Road Nursery School and Sidlaw View Primary School Nursery Class from 31 June 2005 and to close Mossgiel Primary School Nursery Class from 30 June 2006.
- ii. to retain Nursery provision at Mossgiel for those children who are currently enrolled only for the school year August 2005 to June 2006.
- iii. agree to give priority to children affected by the closures for placement in the nursery of their parent's choice

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 These proposals, planned for implementation from 30 June 2005, will generate expenditure savings of £141,440 in a full financial year as detailed in Report No 841-2004 which was approved by the Education and Personnel and Management Services Committee on 20 December 2004.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 A Joint Report to the Education Committee and Personnel and Management Services Committees in December 2004 (refer to Report No 841-2004) sought approval to formally consult parents in relation to proposals to close Cotton Rd Nursery School and Sidlaw View Nursery Class from 31 June 2005 and Mossgiel Nursery Class from 30 June 2006. Following informal consultation with parents it was agreed to delay closure of Mossgiel Nursery Class until 30 June 2006. The Nursery at Mossgiel therefore will

remain open for the school year August 2005 to June 2006 for the 7 children who are currently enrolled and who will be returning in August 2005 for their second year of pre school education. No other children will be admitted to the Nursery during this period.

- 6.2 Arrangements for re-location of children and re-deployment of staff subsequent to the proposed closures were also approved by the Education and Personnel and Management Services Committees in December 2004 (refer to Report No 841-2004).

## 7.0 OUTCOME OF FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 All parents of children affected by the closure proposals were invited to submit comments in writing to the Director of Education before 11 February 2005. Two letters were received on 11 February. Full details of these letters are available from the Director of Education. One letter was from a parent of a child attending Cotton Road Nursery and was written to ensure that consideration would be given to a particular and individual concern about that child. Care will be taken to ensure that this issue is effectively and sensitively managed.

- 7.2 The second letter was from a group of parents (unnamed) of children attending Cotton Road Nursery School. This letter expressed concern that:

- a four month period of notice in relation to the proposed closure was not sufficient
- communication with parents and staff had not been sufficient

Communication has taken place with all parents affected by the proposals in groups and individually. An undertaking has been given that further individual opportunities will be provided once the Education Committee has reached a decision about the closure proposals. In the same way discussion has also taken place with all members of staff who have been assured that further opportunities will be available for continued discussion

- nearby nursery services do not have capacity to provide places to the Cotton Road children

All indications are that there will be sufficient places for children in the alternative nursery provision close to Cotton Road. As a result of the letter from parents a further recommendation has been added to this Report to seek Education Committee approval to give priority within the first nursery of choice for all children affected by the closure proposals

- concerns about a lack of continuity for children

This will be a priority for the Department. Visits will be arranged to the new provision and staff from Cotton Road will accompany children and support them to get to know staff and children in the new locations.

## 8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Director of Social Work, and Head of Communities.

## 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**ANNE WILSON**

**Director of Education**

**21 February 2005**

**AW/ CR**

